

Donald Wilson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Joseph Sullivan and David Mathisen with the assistance of Paul Colton



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013024>

Collection Summary

Title: Donald Wilson Papers

Span Dates: 1910-1979

ID No.: MSS45922

Creator: Wilson, Donald, 1892-1978

Extent: 37,600 items ; 67 containers plus 2 oversize and 3 vault containers ; 26 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: U.S. Army and Air Force officer. Diaries, journals, correspondence, speeches, lectures, flight records, maps and other items relating to Wilson's personal life and military career. Diaries include accounts of the Iwo Jima and other South Pacific campaigns during World War II.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894--Correspondence.
Boutwell, George S. (George Sewall), 1818-1905--Correspondence.
Butler, Benjamin F. (Benjamin Franklin), 1818-1893--Correspondence.
Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879--Correspondence.
Griswold, Whiting, 1814-1874.
Hallett, Benjamin Franklin, 1797-1862--Correspondence.
Hoar, George Frisbie, 1826-1904--Correspondence.
Loring, George B. (George Bailey), 1817-1891--Correspondence.
Phillips, Wendell, 1811-1884--Correspondence.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.
Whitney, James Lyman, 1835-1910--Correspondence.
Wilson, Henry, 1812-1875--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Party.
Democratic Party (U.S.)
Free Soil Party (U.S.)
Massachusetts. Constitutional Convention (1853)
United States. Kansas-Nebraska Act.
Whig Party (U.S.)

Subjects

Constitutional conventions--Massachusetts.
Patronage, Political.
Political parties--United States.
Practice of law--Massachusetts.
Tunnels--Massachusetts.

Places

Hoosac Tunnel (Mass.)
Massachusetts--Politics and government.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations

Lawyers.
Politicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Donald Wilson, U.S. Army and Air Force officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Wilson in 1962. Additions were given by him in 1971-1978.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1979 and expanded in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Donald Wilson in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Donald Wilson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Event</i> |
|----------------|--|
| 1892, Sept. 25 | Born, Hiner's Mill, W.Va. |
| 1910 | Surveyor, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad |
| 1916-1917 | Enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a private and served with it on the Mexican border |
| 1918-1919 | Served on the Western Front during World War I and was transferred to the United States Army Air Service |
| 1938-1939 | Director of Air Tactics and Strategy and head of Air Corps Tactical School, the forerunner of the Air University at Maxwell Field in Alabama |
| 1942-1944 | Chief of staff, Fifth Air Force |
| 1944 | Assistant chief of staff, United States Army Air Forces for Organization, Commitments and Requirements |
| 1945 | Present at the Battle of Iwo Jima as an official Army Air Forces observer Assumed command of Air Force Proving Ground Command. |
| 1947 | Discharged from army with rank of major general |
| 1973 | Published <i>Wooin' Peponi: My Odyssey thru Many Years</i> . [Carmel, Calif.]: D. Wilson |
| 1978, June 21 | Died |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Donald Wilson (1892-1978) span the years 1910-1979 and consist of diaries, journals, correspondence, writings, speeches, military lectures, flight records, news clippings, and maps relating chiefly to Wilson's military career as an army and air force officer from service on the Mexican border before World War I through World War II. The diaries contain accounts of the Iwo Jima campaign during World War II and of other battles in the South Pacific. A focus is on the primacy of air warfare and strategic bombing. The greatest portion of the correspondence is personal and non-military. Included in the collection is a manuscript by Wilson entitled "Origin of a Theory for Air Strategy."

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is organized by type of material and includes two additions.

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 | Diaries and journals |
| BOX 2 | General correspondence |
| BOX 2 | 1910-1912 |
| BOX 3 | 1913-1915 |
| BOX 4 | 1915-1917 |
| BOX 5 | 1917-1918 |
| BOX 6 | 1918-1919 |
| BOX 7 | 1919-1933 |
| BOX 8 | 1934-1943 |
| BOX 9 | 1943 |
| BOX 10 | 1943-1945 |
| BOX 11 | 1945-1954 |
| BOX 12 | 1955-1960 |
| BOX 13 | 1960-1962 |
| BOX 14 | Book, articles, and speeches |
| BOX 14 | Articles and speeches |
| BOX 14 | Book, "The Origin of a Theory for Air Strategy" |
| BOX 15 | Miscellaneous |
| BOX 16 | Subject file |
| BOX 16 | A-M |
| BOX 17 | M-O |
| BOX 18 | O-T |
| BOX 19 | T-V |
| BOX 20 | Personal file |
| BOX 21 | Military lectures |
| BOX 22 | Miscellany |
| BOX 23 | Flight records |
| BOX 24 | Newspaper clippings and scrapbooks |
| BOX 25 | Printed matter, maps, diagrams, and commissions |
| BOX 26 | Addition I |
| BOX 26 | Travel notebooks |
| BOX 26 | 1950s-1960s |
| BOX 27 | 1970s |
| BOX 28-30 | Family correspondence, 1950s-1970s |
| BOX 31-34 | General correspondence, 1950s-1970s |
| BOX 35-36 | Subject file, 1950s-1970s |
| BOX 37-39 | Travel file, 1950s-1970s |
| BOX 40-46 | Writings |
| BOX 40-46 | Autobiography, <i>Wooing Peponi</i> , 1940s-1970s |
| BOX 47 | Articles, 1940s-1970s, undated |
| BOX 48-57 | Financial records, 1910-1970s |

Container List

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| BOX 58-62 | Miscellany, including clippings and loose maps |
| BOX 63-64 | Photographs |
| BOX OV 65 | Printing plates for <i>Wooring Peponi</i> , awards, certificates, and phototographic reproductions (Oversize) |
| BOX X66-X68 | Closed material |
| BOX 69 | Addition II |
| BOX 69 | Correspondence, 1976-1978 |
| BOX 69 | Condolences, 1978-1979 |
| BOX 69 | Financial records |
| BOX 69 | Housing miscellany, 1951-1978 (4 folders) |
| BOX 69 | Passbooks, 1961-1978 |
| BOX 70 | Cashbooks, 1951-1977 |
| BOX 70 | Bank statements, 1974-1977 |
| BOX 70 | Receipts, 1976-1978 |
| BOX 71 | Vouchers, 1950-1977 |
| BOX 71 | Check stubs, 1973-1978 |
| BOX 71 | Diploma, Air Corps Tactical School, 1931 |
| BOX OV 72 | “Operational Survey No. 1, Land-Air Offensive in New Guinea, ” typescript and maps (Oversize) 1942, Nov. 2-1943, Jan. 23, |